



# WESTERN CAUCUS NEWS

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## **Western Caucus Introduces Bill to Establish a Comprehensive Land Inventory**

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(Washington, DC): Western Caucus Chairman Chris Cannon (R-UT) introduced legislation last night in the House of Representatives to develop a multipurpose inventory of federal real property to assist with federal land management, resource conservation and identification of surplus and unneeded federal lands.

“It’s a sad day when one of the largest land owners in the world does not know where the land is, what it’s being used for and whether it’s being put to its best use,” said Cannon. “If you don’t know what you have, how can you know what you need to keep and what you can dispose of?”

Although numerous provisions of law require the federal government to inventory land, existing inventories are old, outdated, and inaccurate. In addition, there is no central inventory that coordinates all of the separate inventories into one usable database. This legislation would direct the Secretary of the Interior to create a national property inventory for the more than 670 million acres managed by the federal government.

“By inventorying these lands we can begin the process of putting them back into productive use,” said Western Caucus Vice-Chairman, and co-sponsor Jeff Flake (R-AZ).

The bill also allows the Secretary of Interior to enter into cost sharing agreements with the states to include any non-federal lands in a state in the inventory.

Also co-sponsoring the bill were the following House Members: Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R-CO), Rep. John Peterson (R-PA) Rep. Butch Otter (R-ID), Rep. Mike Simpson (R-ID), and Rep. John Duncan (R-TN).

*The Western Caucus is comprised of members of Congress committed to protecting the interests and ideals of the West. The mission of the Western Caucus is to focus on improving the quality of life in rural areas through policies that promote limited government, individual liberty, and economic opportunity.*

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